

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 18680 220451Z
ACTION CU-04

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FOR CU/IVP/V

USIA FOR IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, JA
SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION OFFICERS

REF: TOKYO 6332

POST HAS AGAIN BEEN CONTACTED BY PUBLIC RELATION SECTION OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND JAPAN INFORMATION CENTER ABOUT PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION OFFICERS. JAPANESE ARE WELL AWARE THAT U.S. SIDE HIGHLY DECENTRALIZED, BUT HOPE THAT SOME CENTRAL OFFICE OR ORGANIZATION COULD BE FOUND TO ASSIST. THEY HAVE SUGGESTED CONTACTING GOVERNMENT INFORMATION ORGANIZATION (GIO) FOR HELP. POST IS AWARE OF EXISTANCE THIS ORGANIZATION, BUT HAS NO OTHER INFORMATION. WOULD APPRECIATE DETAILS MEMBERSHIP, FUNDING, PURPOSE ETC. PROPOSED PROGRAM IS AS FLOOWS: EACH YEAR/EACH SIDE WOULD SEND ONE SENIOR DOMESTIC INFORMATION OFFICER FOR A MINIMUM OF TWO WEEKS OF OBSERVATION, AND LECTURING. MAIN IDEA BEING EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON DOMESTIC PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES. POST WOULD PROPSE THAT EACH SIDE PAY OWN INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORATION, AND OTHER SIDE INTERNAL EXPENSES, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE RECIPROCAL MEANING TO THE
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EXCHANGE. JAPAN SIDE VERY EAGER TO GET STARTED THIS FISCAL YEAR, WHICH ENDS ONMARCH 31. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SUCH WOULD BE POSSIBLE. POST SEES GREAT MERIT TO SUCH AN EXCHANGE, AS IT WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE JAPANESE ENGAGED IN DOMESTIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS TO EXPLANATION OF U.S. POLICIES, AS WELL

AS OTHER WAY ROUND. WE ARE AWARE OF PROBLEMS THAT EXIST,
SUCH AS U.S. SIDE FUNDING, SELECTION ETC. SINCE LANGUAGE
NOT A REQUIREMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT LATTER CAN BE
EASILY OVERCOME. POST WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN
CONTACTING GIO OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATION, AS WELL
AS COMMENTS ON FEASIBILITY AND UTILITY OF PROGRAM. JAPANESE
SIDE VERY INTERESTED, SO WOULD APPRECIATE INTERIM RESPONSE
ASAP.
HODGSON

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